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FOREIGN MINISTER MONTES LEAVES FOR BOLIVIA

PY191535Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1235 GMT 19 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Apr--Foreign Minister Vice Adm Oscar Antonio Montes left for Bolivia today from the metropolitan airport. The foreign minister was seen off from the military sector by Foreign Ministry officials. In Bolivia Montes will study several bilateral matters with his Bolivian colleague Adriazola Valda. During his visit to that country, which will last until Friday, Montes will meet with President Banzer.

PERUVIAN PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ REPORTEDLY POSTPONES VISIT

PY200035Y Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 18 Apr 78 p 7 PY

[Excerpt] Last night, a high-ranking government source told CLARIN that the visit by the president of Peru, Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez, to Buenos Aires has been postponed.

The spokesman stated that he could not disclose a tentative date for the visit which the Peruvian chief of state will make to our country during May.

Morales Bermudez' visit to Buenos Aires would be in response to the one which the nation's president, Gen Jorge Rafael Videla, made in March 1977.

The spokesman said the reasons for postponement of the visit to Buenos Aires were related to the intense activity which the Peruvian chief of state is encountering due to the domestic situation in his country.

This visit initially had been scheduled for last year, but was also postponed.

ILO WILL ACCEPT 'COMMITTEE OF 25' DELEGATES

PY191529Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0604 GMT 19 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 18 Apr--The International Labor Organization [ILO] has announced that only an Argentine delegation appointed by the "Committee of 25" will be recognized at the next ILO assembly, it was reported in union sectors.

CANADIAN NUCLEAR OFFICIAL ARRIVES FOR TALKS

PY181827Y Buenos Aires CRONICA in Spanish 17 Apr 78 p 6 PY

[Text] Ross Campbell, president of the Canadian Atomic Energy Commission, said yesterday that "in the coming decade the Latin American countries will make a move toward the use of nuclear energy in the same way as Argentina and Brazil have done." He arrived at Ezeiza international airport heading a Canadian delegation of officials and legislators. He said that "in this sector Argentina is the leader in Latin America." Ross Campbell expressed "satisfaction with Argentina's cooperation with Latin American countries" in the field of nuclear technology transference and said that he came to Buenos Aires "to discuss some problems." Canada has sold atomic installations to Argentina.

URANIUM PROCESSING PLANS UNVEILED IN MENDOZA

FY182014Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1305 GMT 18 Apr 78 FY

[Text] Mendoza, 18 Apr--Felix Carlos la Red, provincial economy minister, yesterday announced during a press conference that officials of the Mendoza Nuclear Enterprise [Empresa Nuclear Mendoza--ENM] have drafted a series of action plans which are subject to the approval and collaboration of the National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA]. These plans will be discussed at a meeting today which will be attended by Rear Admiral Castro Madero, CNEA president.

According to Captain Vozza, a sulphuric acid plant, with a capacity for processing 100 tons daily, will be built in San Rafael Department. A pilot plant for uranium concentration will also be built and operated in San Rafael; for this, the Soberania mine will be reactivated and the El Challao region will be exploited. The mineral (?remanent) from the Huemul mine will also be processed; and small uranium [nucleares] mines belonging to CNEA and private owners will also be exploited. He added that the mineral deposits in the area of Los Gigantes, Cordoba Province, will be explored and exploited; the waste of the Malargue and Don Otto plants, in Salta Province, will be reprocessed; and the mineral deposits of Los Colorados, La Rioja Province, and those which CNEA has in San Juan Province [will also be exploited].

This is the plan [words indistinct] which is subject to approval of the CNEA.

COURT ASKS PARAGUAY TO EXTRADITE VILLONE

FY191714Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1417 GMT 19 Apr 78 FY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 19 Apr--Through his secretary, Jorge N. Hernandez, federal judge Rafael Sarmiento has sent a diplomatic note to the federal judge of Asuncion, Paraguay. The note requests extradition of Jose Maria Villone, former secretary of press and broadcasting of the Peronist government, for trial under case No 12,098 of his court on charges of embezzlement of public funds and fraud.

VENEZUELAN ARMY COMMANDER ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

FY200030Y Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 19 Apr 78 p 10 FY

[Text] Gen Ernesto Brandt Torrellos, commander general of the Venezuelan Army, arrived in this country yesterday for an official visit at the invitation of the Argentine Army.

The high-ranking Venezuelan military chief was received at Ezeiza international airport by Gen Roberto Viola, chief of the army general staff. He was accompanied by Horacio Cardenas Becerra, Venezuelan ambassador; Col Juan Ojeda Campero, Venezuelan military attache; and Col Ataliva Fernandez, chief of the Ezeiza airport base.

From Ezeiza they went by military helicopter to the Palermo military equestrian camp, where a formation from the III General Belgrano Infantry Regiment greeted the visitor with appropriate honors.

ARGENTINE MILITARY AID WILL NOT BE INCREASED

PY191418Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0311 GMT 19 Apr 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 18 Apr--Louis Ipres Corbat, Argentine ambassador to La Paz, told AFP here today that Argentina will not increase its military aid to Bolivia. Corbat said: "I feel there is no reason to increase our military aid. We have a naval mission to cooperate with the Bolivian naval force, in addition to army and air force aides."

Corbat indicated that the significance of Foreign Minister Oscar Montes' visit to Bolivia is "immense, because it could strengthen even more the friendship between the two nations."

Montes will arrive in La Paz tomorrow, Wednesday, for an official 48-hour visit.

Corbat concluded: "Aspects of the documents to be signed between the two foreign ministers include expansion of the Bolivian free port area in the Argentine port of Rosario, special agreements regarding Argentine wheat sales and the conclusion of the international Padcaya-Bermejo highway."

ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER MONTES ARRIVES

PY200028Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1910 GMT 19 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpt] La Paz, 19 Apr--Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar Montes arrived in La Paz at noon today from Buenos Aires for a 48-hour official visit. Montes came on board a special Argentine Air Force plane. Bolivian Foreign Minister Oscar Adriazola met him at La Paz's El Alto international airport.

Soon after his arrival in Bolivia, Montes stated that "our visit is a sign that relations between our two nations are an example of understanding in this troubled Latin American southern cone." He added that "Bolivia's desire for a sea outlet is a priority issue for this nation and it will be discussed during the talks I will hold with Foreign Minister Oscar Adriazola."

Montes is the first foreign minister to visit Bolivia since the La Paz government severed relations with Chile on 17 March.

SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER APONTE BURELA INTERVIEWED

PY172051Y La Paz Radio Stentor in Spanish 1230 GMT 17 Apr 78 PY

["Facetas" interview with Socialist Party Secretary General Guillermo Aponte Burela--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] We would like to ask you to please explain the aims of this alliance [Democratic and Popular Unity Front--FUDP], how it came to be organized, what its prospects are and what it expects to achieve on the Bolivian political scene.

[Answer] It so happens that this front has been functioning for several years, but underground.

Principally we are working with the Communist Party--Moscow party line, the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left, and the (?Movement of the Revolutionary Left) and the (?Movement of the National Left) as well. Therefore, what has happened is nothing other than the reaffirmation of a position which we have been maintaining, and continue to maintain, for the last 3 or 4 years.

I believe that the creation of a front is very important, not a front which is purely leftist, but a center-left front. We believe that in order to fight against the bourgeoisie and [words indistinct] we must join forces. The interests of the working class are the same, whether the workers be communists, socialists, Christian Democrats or members of movements.

As this front has been created principally to defend the working class, and as it also includes other patriotic objectives, we believe that we must make it as large as possible.

The bourgeoisie is very powerful. It has its own press, broadcasting stations, its own bourgeois laws and various support institutions. Therefore, in order to fight against the bourgeoisie and power we have to establish a large active front.

But this does not imply that the political parties become united because this is not a coalition of parties. Each party maintains its ideology and its positions regarding doctrine. The front is created around objectives which have been clearly established.

[Question] We understand, then, that the alliance which you support [words indistinct] political, is looking beyond the 9 July elections?

[Answer] Yes, this is a front which is looking toward the future. The electoral process for us is just a stage in which we do not yet know how things will turn out for us because we do not know what democratic policies are to be granted us by the government in order to participate in these elections.

You reporters know very well that the Interior and Labor Ministries are intervening in favor of the official candidate. In Santa Cruz the party has made an official charge regarding the fact that the elections in the (?construction) union have been postponed twice; even its headquarters has been attacked, because the list which possibly had the larger amount of votes belongs to the opposition.

You also know that in the interior there is no freedom for labor or political leaders to (?carry out their tasks). Therefore, there are no democratic conditions for holding elections with the participation of all parties with all the legal rights.

Our front has always struggled for long-lasting organizations. To make these organizations possible electoral pacts are established, but the leftist front which we have created, which now has several years of life, is a political entity which is looking toward the future.

[Question] Speaking of divisions and grassroots, how does the Socialist Party now stand after the break-away of Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz?

[Answer] This question was settled during a congress. During a national congress with delegates from all of the departmental committees it was decided to do away with regionalism. Regrettably Mr Quiroga Santa Cruz adopted a very radical and strict position which was not in accordance with the declaration of principles or with the Bolivian Socialist Party's line of thought. Neither is it in accordance with the line of thought of world socialism.

I believe he is mistaken and that he should not belong to the Socialist Party but to a more radical party which has ideas similar to those for which he is struggling day after day.

[Question] But you must have had the opportunity of talking with Quiroga and you must know what his line of thought is. Is this not true?

[Answer] Of course, we have had several chats and we have mutually criticized our respective positions and the national executive secretariat of the Socialist Party has indicated that Quiroga's position is not in accordance with the declaration of principles or with the Socialist Party's line of thought and this is why he has been separated [words indistinct].

[Question] Doctor, we do not understand you explanation very well. This question of a [word indistinct] position, a position which is outside the Bolivian situation. Would you please explain the real disagreements between your position and that of Quiroga?

[Answer] Of course. Quiroga is proposing an ideological front, a hard Marxist-Leninist leftist front. The difference between a front and a party? A front is precisely the union of several similar ideologies which are united around a concrete objective without the essence of the parties' doctrines being harmed. Quiroga's position is that of creating an ideological front which is not in accordance with what the world front means but rather with what a political party is. I do not wish to discuss this subject any more because it is going to be debated at the party's congress on 1 May and it will be the congress which will have the last say in this matter.

[Question] [Passage indistinct] In your opinion, what are the Bolivian Socialist Party's prospects and what type of relations does it have on the international level?

[Answer] You are quite right, Miss reporter. Socialism is the tonic for this century and the world must relentlessly progress toward socialism. This is why similar parties in Europe are being victorious. Our party is a young party. It had a life of 3 months. It was founded on 1 May 1971 and on 21 August we were being pursued as though we were animals. Therefore, the party's organization was damaged. Nonetheless, due to my return to the country and the self-sacrificing and heroic work of the executive secretariat of the resistance, which stayed in Bolivia during the last 7 years, the party has been kept together.

We are now reorganizing our departmental committees throughout the country and the committees in the mines and the rural areas. We have a lot of faith in the fact that we believe that the Socialist Party is going to be the great party of the revolution. Therefore, our activities are based on the future.

This question of bourgeois elections--we are now talking as Bolivians--is a circumstantial question for us. Our goal is the socialist revolution and this cannot be achieved in 4 days.

We are organizing our cadres, our schools of cadres; we are indoctrinating the people, teaching the workers what socialism really means, what socialist doctrine means. And as soon as we have a large and powerful party, only then are we going to try and achieve power. We are not interested in immediate power. We are interested in the revolution.

[Question] But Dr Aponte (Mabel Ascruiz) [the other interviewer] also asked you if the Bolivian Socialist Party had any kind of relations at the international level.

[Answer] Very few. We have exchanged two or three telegrams with Felipe Gonzalez, leader of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party [PSOE] and precisely at this time comrade [name indistinct] (Carrera) is in Spain to hold meetings with Gonzalez and to (?establish) such relations. We do not have any international relations with socialist parties other than this one with Felipe Gonzalez.

[Question] Do you believe that this growth to which you aspire will be limited by the participation of a front which curtails some activities of the parties involved?

[Answer] No, not at all because the front which we are promoting is precisely to defend democracy, to defend the rights which every Bolivian citizen has of free association, of dissenting. Therefore, by creating this front we are preparing the field so that we can exercise democracy and our rights (?in accordance with the support) given to us by the constitution.

[Question] We do have much more to cover regarding the Socialist Party and the front, but we would also like to discuss other subjects regarding the present national political situation. What do the Socialist Party and the front which has just been created think about the other candidacies which also allegedly have constituencies within the national consensus?

[Answer] I believe that the others are official parties. One of them, Pereda's party, is 100 percent official; and the other, General Bernal's, is semi-official. General Bernal was Banzer's minister until day before yesterday and, therefore, he has the same connections within the army, the same power derived from his friendship with army comrades. [words indistinct].

[Question] Dr Aponte, when we interviewed Siles Suazo a few days ago, he told us that very shortly Pereda Asbun would be a candidate for the opposition. I do not know if you heard Siles' statement but what do you know about this?

[Answer] There are rumors about serious disagreements between Pereda and Banzer but since we do not have any official connections with either of them, I know nothing about this.

[Question] Do you think that the front which is supporting the candidacy of former President Hernan Siles Zuazo still has a chance?

[Answer] If we are able to achieve a center-left front, as the Socialist Party has promoted in a document issued on 10 December 1977, we can easily win the elections.

[Question] Dr Aponte, do you believe that mine leader Juan Lechin Oquendo will be a presidential candidate? What is your opinion?

[Answer] I know that the Cochabamba independent peasants congress has proclaimed him, but I also know that comrade Lechin does not have much interest in participating in the electoral process. I, therefore, do not believe that his candidacy will prosper because I have been told by common friends of ours that he does not believe in the elections?

[Question] Do you believe in the elections?

[Answer] As things are going at the present time, no. But if the democratic process is expanded, if citizens' freedoms and rights are expanded and if the parties are allowed to go to the interior, the mines, anywhere in the country, without truncheons held over their heads, then I will believe in the elections. I will believe in the elections when I see the enforcement of truly democratic conditions which will enable free elections.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] I believe that the military-peasant pact is an aberration. The armed forces cannot sign a pact with just one sector of the population. The armed forces is an institution belonging to all Bolivians and the armed forces must hold a pact with all Bolivians, not just with one sector. As for the electoral value of the peasants, the answer is obvious. More than 70 percent of our population lives in rural areas and therefore, quantitatively, it is the most important sector from the electoral point of view. This is why we would like to be allowed to go the peasants. [passage indistinct]

[Question] You say that if the elections are clean your [words indistinct] front can win the elections. If they are not clean who wins?

[Answer] Well, the sheriff's horse will win.

[Question] And in what state will this horse be after it wins?

[Answer] It will be a Pyrrhic victory because it will destroy its own forces in a fraudulent vitory. If the sheriff's horse wins the elections cleanly we will accept the results, but if we see that there is an evident fraud in the elections we will not accept the election results.

[Question] What do you mean when you say that you will not accept the election results?

[Answer] That we will appeal to the representative sectors of the people and the armed forces itself to reject the results of this election.

[Question] What is your opinion about the electoral law?

[Answer] We are now drafting a document in which we criticize the electoral law. The political [word indistinct] we are studying. Of course I can tell you that we will defend our positions. The first is to give the right to vote to all citizens after they turn 18, that is, voting will be legal at 18. Next we will define [word indistinct].

[Question] [Words indistinct] But is there an agreement within the parties in the front?

[Answer] Yes, [words indistinct] meetings, we are studying general proposals. We have not discussed the issue specifically but it is a priority issue.

[Question] What is your reason for granting voting rights to 18-year-olds and [word indistinct]?

[Answer] Firstly, because youth is the best and greatest thing that the country has and (?it is a vote) which is generally [words indistinct] that youth will not be able to cope, but we trust that youth will strengthen our front because our front is the Bolivian people's hope for achieving a better tomorrow. It is a hope that the Bolivian people have for a country with justice, sovereignty and food. Because they know we will defend the rights of working people and the great national majorities.

[Question] Despite the present concern within political parties for achieving massive participation of citizens and particularly of the young, there has been a certain apathy in the election registration offices, even though these have been open for 2 weeks. Why is this? Is it because we have not had elections in 12 years?

[Answer] Of course. But you must remember that we Bolivians are always used to leaving everything until the last moment. We are concerned only when Hell is boiling over. [words indistinct] the people have been dormant. The working class has been cowed by so much repression that they are just now freeing themselves, and only now are they starting to believe in the electoral process. No one believed in the electoral process before because there were rumors which stated that this electoral process would be obstructed and that it was going to be (?substituted) by another armed forces maneuver. But we now see that the electoral process will be carried out and that we have to prepare ourselves and appeal to the people to register and fulfill their civic duty.

[Question] That is what the political parties believe, but the government believes that citizens (?are rejecting) political parties, factions and associations. What do you think about this?

[Answer] After 7 years of dictatorship, a splintering of political parties is normal. This uncertain atmosphere is normal because union and political leadership have been destroyed and even the middle cadres have been exiled or detained. Therefore, there is a lack of a systematic political reorganization process within the parties and leaders. We have just now begun to organize our cadres at the union and political level. What we have now is the result of the repression which the Bolivian people have experienced.

BRIEFS

ANTIMONY PRODUCERS TO MEET--According to executives of private mining enterprises, antimony-producing countries will hold a meeting in La Paz in May. The meeting, which will discuss the depressed situation of the international antimony market, will be attended by representatives of Bolivia, South Africa, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru and Spain. According to the sources the meeting will also analyze the possibility of creating an association of antimony producers. [La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 17 Apr 78 PY]

MAGALHAES PINTO REAFFIRMS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY

PY191522Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia--In Brasilia yesterday Senator Magalhaes Pinto said that he will not negotiate his position and that he will only withdraw his candidacy for president if redemocratization and the cancellation of the exceptional laws occur immediately.

Magalhaes Pinto said that the process of selecting governors is prejudicial to the country's image abroad. He declared: I follow the precepts of the 1964 revolution, which I initiated and led with the support of federal troops--army, navy, and air force--and of those who wanted the reestablishment of a democratic order. The objectives of the revolution have not been fulfilled. Those included a return to democracy, a guarantee of the state of law, and the people's right to choose their leaders.

FIGUEIREDO OFFICIALLY PLACED IN RESERVE STATUS

PY190122Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 18 Apr 78 PY

[Text] President Geisel today signed a decree whereby Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo was placed in the reserves in view of his nomination as National Renewal Alliance candidate for the presidency.

BOLIVIA CHARGES VIOLATION OF BORDER AGREEMENTS

PY191300Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Apr 78 p 8 PY

[Text] Porto Velho--Humberto Guedes, governor of Rondonia Territory, paid a visit to the Bolivian city of Guayaramerin over the weekend. On this occasion, local Bolivian officials gave him a memorandum charging Brazil with having violated two agreements it had signed with Bolivia, that is, the Robore and Petropolis agreements.

The memorandum charges Brazil with "taking unilateral measures which distort these agreements, since the demand for a compulsory deposit for Brazilian imports and the failure to build a road linking the Brazilian towns of Guajara-Mirim and Porto Velho are today an obstacle for Bolivian development."

The governor--who went to Guayaramerin on a courtesy visit--expressed his surprise at the demands, presented by the local mayor, Manlio Melgar Rosa; Helena Herraste, mayor of the neighboring town of Riberalta; local military officials and businessmen.

The mayor of Riberalta pointed out to Guedes the damage which is being caused to the Bolivian economy by the demand for compulsory deposits for Brazilian imports, by the restrictions imposed on entry of products from the Bolivian departments of Pando and Beni, and by the failure to set up a power link between Guajara-Mirim and Guayaramerim.

Diplomatic sources reported yesterday in Brasilia that Itamaraty will have to answer today the Bolivian charge of Brazil's violation of the two agreements.

There are conflicting reports on this subject. There are even rumors that President Banzer himself may have ordered this course of action. These sources noted: "This is strange, since the government of Rondonia Territory is not the appropriate channel for making any kind of accusation regarding noncompliance with agreements between the two countries."

CONTROLS ESTABLISHED FOR ENTRANCE OF FOREIGNERS

PY181430Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Apr 78 PY

[Text] The federal police have issued instructions to the border police stations regarding the entrance into national territory of Argentines, Uruguayans, Paraguayans and Chileans. The regulation does not affect those carrying passports.

The Justice Ministry orders affect foreigners entering the country with identification cards. From now on these persons will have to show a return ticket and demonstrate that they at least have 5,000 cruzeiros or its equivalent in foreign currency with them. [words indistinct]

BANDEIRANTE PLANE CERTIFIED IN GREAT BRITAIN

PY171855Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Apr 78 p 1 PY

[Text] The Bandeirante EMB-110-P2 built by EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Co] in Sao Jose dos Campos yesterday received an approval certificate for regular passenger service throughout Great Britain. This certificate permits the Bandeirantes plane to carry up to 21 passengers, while other certificates which have been extended so far limit its capacity to 18 passengers "for purely technical reasons," according to EMBRAER.

The certificate has been issued after 14 months of inspection by British teams who came to Sao Jose dos Campos twice to test the Bandeirantes plane and also tested it at Crampfield in Great Britain. With this certificate, Air Westward and Air Ecosse, which had already imported one Bandeirante each, can immediately begin operations on scheduled flights.

FISH SALES BANNED DUE TO MERCURY POISONING

PY191431Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0110 GMT 19 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Porto Alegre--19 Apr--The sale and consumption of fish was prohibited in southern Brazil yesterday in the wake of the greatest ecological catastrophe on record in the southern cone.

The health secretary of Rio Grande do Sul State, which borders Uruguay, issued the order after mercury was found in coastal waters at Hermenegildo Beach.

The results of water analysis practically confirm that ocean waters in the southern region of the country have been contaminated by mercury contained in the hold of the Brazilian ship "Taquari," which sank 3 miles off the coast of Rocha Department, Uruguay, 142 km from Hermenegildo, in 1971. This ship was carrying liquid industrial mercury which is highly toxic and nondegradable.

Rio Grande do Sul Health Secretary Jair Soares explained that he had reluctantly prohibited the sale and consumption of fish in the state as an unavoidable measure to protect the population, which is facing a real health threat.

JORNAL: CARTER DECISION ON NEUTRON BOMB 'PERPLEXING'

PY181427Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 17 Apr 78 p 10 PY

[Editorial: "Suspended Bomb"]

[Text] President Carter has taken a particularly perplexing position regarding the neutron bomb. To his enemies, this reflects Carter's lack of experience in international affairs. To his supporters, it shows that he is determined to comply with the commitment he made in his inaugural speech to the effect of "removing nuclear weapons from the earth." In one way or another, it has become clear that there is a major gap between maintaining good principles and applying them to political reality.

The Soviet Union has taken advantage of this gap to set up what is now emerging as well-orchestrated, successful propaganda. Weapons, especially nuclear, are always resisted by conscientious citizens. Despite everything that has been said about it, the neutron bomb is not the devil's latest invention designed to destroy mankind. Although it is a nuclear device, it is a clean weapon in relation to previous nuclear weapons: Although its irradiation is intense, its contaminating effect is much less.

Because of intense irradiation, the neutron bomb could halt an offensive launched by Warsaw Pact tanks against Western Europe by merely killing the occupants of the tanks. Yet, a city located near the site of the fighting would not suffer major consequences because the radiation of the neutron bomb is shortlived and because it has a much lower explosive power than other bombs.

The neutron bomb's specific application has prompted a propaganda campaign designed to prevent its production, since this would help overcome NATO's disadvantage in relation to the Warsaw Pact's larger weaponry arsenal. There is a strong argument against the new nuclear device. That it would make a nuclear conflict more feasible by creating a clean nuclear war. But this argument is not as strong as it seems to be. Any criminal power which may decide to unleash a nuclear war would certainly choose the most powerful weapons to do so--that is, existing nuclear weapons. In view of its limited effect, the neutron bomb is clearly a defensive weapon, or a deterrent, especially within the very special framework of the European balance of power, where one cannot expect that NATO will some day be able to have material similar to that of the Warsaw Pact.

Meanwhile, Carter is hesitant. He is perhaps thinking of the upcoming SALT talks, of the disarmament agreement. But for the purpose of bargaining with the Soviets, considering that it is so difficult to bargain anything with the USSR (the meager results obtained through the Helsinki treaty are evidence of this), it would have been more effective to not hesitate so much regarding a weapon which had practical value only for NATO. To resume--after having moved back and forth so much--the project designed to produce this bomb will only add more fuel to the fire of Soviet propaganda.

GENERAL AMNESTY ANNOUNCED BY GOVERNMENT

PY191916Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1843 GMT 19 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 19 Apr--The Chilean Government has decided that political exiles will be able to return to the country as a result of the general amnesty approved today.

Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez said that for persons outside Chilean territory "who were sentenced by military courts, those sentences are no longer valid." He added: "Therefore, they also benefit from the amnesty."

It was announced that the interior minister, who assumed his post only a week ago, will speak to the nation by radio and television tonight.

Justice Minister Monica Madariaga made clear that the decision benefits those who were sentenced to deportation. She indicated: "Their sentence of deportation is no longer in force and they can return if they wish."

The minister mentioned as examples the cases of leaders of the proscribed Socialist Party, Erick Schnake and Carlos Lazo, who recently left the country.

The two leaders, as well as others who were sentenced by the military court, had their prison sentences commuted to deportation.

224 Will Be Affected

PY191620Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1547 GMT 19 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 19 Apr--The Chilean military government today authorized an amnesty which will affect over 200 prisoners, most of whom were sentenced by military courts.

A decree-law published in the official bulletin confirms the action which was announced in advance 2 weeks ago by Chilean President Augusto Pinochet in a message to the country.

The Justice Ministry has stated that 224 persons will benefit from the amnesty.

Of this number, 109 will go into exile within the next few days, since their prison terms have been converted to deportation according to a joint program undertaken by the Chilean Government and the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration.

The law published today specifically mentions those who were sentenced by military courts after the military coup which overthrew the government of the late socialist President Salvador Allende in September 1973.

Among those who will benefit from the amnesty are some navy sailors accused of attempting a pro-Allende uprising in mid-1973.

When stating the reasons for this government decision, the decree says that it is necessary "to strengthen the links uniting the Chilean nation, by leaving behind feelings of hatred which have now lost their meaning."

Interior Minister Explains Amnesty

IA200311Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0146 GMT 20 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 19 Apr (AFP)--Chilean Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez said tonight that the country has begun a new era under the banner of reconciliation, which requires the support of all Chileans. He conceded that "the military regime's known ideological position is unchanged, and it has renewed vigor due to increasing civilian cooperation, which no one can deny."

Sergio Fernandez made the statements over a radio and television network in his first speech since he was appointed interior minister 7 days ago and placed in charge of conducting the Chilean institutional process. Fernandez also referred to the general amnesty recently announced by the government which will benefit all persons who were sentenced by the military courts after 11 September 1973. He also explained that the decision was made because the country is calm and peaceful and because in this fashion the military regime demonstrates "the humanitarian essence of this government, which responds vigorously when circumstances demand it but also values peace, is not bitter and knows that pardoning and forgetting should open new paths for a unified fatherland."

He said that with this step the government takes a new path toward eliminating differences which divide Chileans and that it is now up to all of the people to respond to the fatherland with honest sentiments and responsibility. He recalled the "years of bitterness" which the country had experienced but said "that same memory will drive us to make our nation stronger so that this danger cannot threaten us again."

Fernandez concluded his speech by urging Chileans to understand the deep humanitarian significance of the action by the government which, "far from encouraging resentment [should encourage Chileans] to participate in the common task of contributing to the increase of the country's greatness."

COURT TURNS DOWN REQUEST BY TOWNLEY'S LAWYER

PY191310Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 19 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--The court rejected a petition to appoint a special judge to investigate alleged crimes committed by public officials when implementing the expulsion order against U.S. citizen Michael Townley. The verdict indicates that proceedings in the case are already in progress at the Third Criminal Court, which will designate the guilty parties.

PRESIDENT HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE ON PANAMA TREATIES

PA192359Y Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[Press conference held by Colombian President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen on 18 April at the San Carlos Palace in Bogota--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Lopez Michelsen] The National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives of Panama, which is practically a constituent assembly and takes the place of a congress in Panama, in November 1977 formalized [words indistinct] whereby Colombia retains the rights it had by virtue of the Urrutia-Thompson treaty and the Panamanian Government has been authorized since last year to sign a treaty with Colombia whereby the rights granted in the 1914 treaty remain unaffected.

[Question] Mr. President, what do you have to say to the Panamanian people at this moment?

[Answer] I share the satisfaction of the Panamanian people and I believe the success of such costly negotiations, which have lasted almost 14 years, must be a source of satisfaction and good will for all of Latin America.

[Question] Mr. President, do you think the approval of the new Panama Canal treaty marks the beginning of an era of new relations between the United States and Latin America?

[Answer] Of course. I would describe what has just taken place as a thawing, because by renouncing the rights specifically obtained by the 1903 treaty, the United States proves that equality between Latin American countries and the United States does exist. I hope that this will extend to other fields, such as trade relations, especially modification of the protectionist position often adopted by the United States toward our products. I hope that through the implementation of joint hemispheric policies we will continue making progress on terms of real equality between the United States and Latin American countries.

[Question] Mr. President, does the explanation made at the last moment in the U.S. Senate eliminate the fear of possible U.S. intervention in Panama?

[Answer] The final version, which we discussed with Panama and the United States in the last 3 days, explicitly notes that the rights contained in the DeConcini reservation are not and should not be interpreted as rights of intervention. Therefore, it is not an interpretation of what the treaty says. The treaty explicitly states that the U.S. right to guarantee transit through the canal can never be interpreted as intervention in Panama's internal affairs. Besides, to have the Panama Canal always open is of great interest not only to the continent but more so to the United States, Colombia and Central American countries with coasts on both oceans. Imagine what an interruption of traffic from Cartagena, Barranquilla, Santa Marta, Buenaventura and Tumaco would mean to Colombia. Currently, a great percentage of oil being refined in Cartagena comes from Morito and it is being shipped from Tumaco. If this route were to be closed and we could not use it to ship salt, nor any other heavy cargos, which cost less if shipped by sea rather than by land, let us say, between Santa Marta and Tumaco, Colombia's economy would be immediately affected.

[Question] Mr. President, do you believe Colombia's participation was important in the U.S. Senate's ratification of the new treaty?

[Answer] History will tell. However, you should know that the Panamanian Government in the last few hours had the courtesy, in deference to me personally, of distributing the speech I delivered last Sunday at the Jorge Eliecer Gaitan museum in the Congress of the United States. I would say that Colombia has always played, together with Venezuela, Costa Rica and the rest of the countries in the continent, an important role in the negotiations.

COLOMBIANS PLEASED WITH CANAL TREATY RATIFICATION

PA200348Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2200 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[By Guillermo Tribin Piedrahita]

[Excerpts] Bogota, 19 Apr (EFE)--The 14-year struggle waged by Panama with "stoicism and perseverance" has resulted in a victory for this small country, and above all for Latin America and President Carter personally. This is the general reaction of official Colombian Government circles, the traditional political parties and diplomats of the continent today to what they described as a "historic act" of the U.S. Congress. By a vote of 68 to 32 the U.S. Congress approved the treaty with Panama which safeguards the nonintervention principle, just as the Latin American countries which backed Panama in its struggle for the recovery of its sovereignty and rights over the waterway had been insistently demanding.

Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, director of the Liberal Party and its presidential candidate, told EFE today that "the agreement safeguards an entire set of concepts which have always been pursued with a spirit of Latin American unity, and with fervor and passion for justice." Turbay Ayala profusely praised President Carter, in whom he recognized "the determination and courage to face a problem which, as we all know, was not popular." He emphasized that there is in Latin America a broad consensus to reject "more colonialisms" and said that we "should all back" the approval of the treaties. As democrats we should welcome the fact that the treaty was approved without impairing or hurting the principles of nonintervention and that Panama has safeguarded its sovereignty and Colombia was able to demonstrate its friendship for that country at a time when solidarity was necessary.

Former Colombian Foreign Minister Alfredo Vasquez Carrizosa, who was of the opinion that a rejection of the treaty would not only be detrimental for U.S. relations with Panama but the rest of Latin America as well, hailed the agreement and said that "justice was finally done for a just cause." Conservative Party presidential candidate Belisario Betancur was pleased with the U.S. Congress' decision and praised Panamanian Chief of State Gen Omar Torrijos and his people "for this struggle in which the general principle of justice prevailed."

All Colombian papers gave wide coverage on their front pages and international pages to the decision of the U.S. Congress and acclaimed the approval of the treaties as a great victory for Panama and Latin America.

PRESIDENT MENDEZ ACCEPTS AGRICULTURE MINISTER'S RESIGNATION

PY141813Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1651 GMT 14 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Montevideo, 14 Apr--President Aparicio Mendez has accepted the resignation of Agriculture and Fishing Minister Estanislao Valdes Otero, it was officially reported this afternoon.

The reasons for the resignation were not revealed. The communique only states that Valdes Otero placed his position at the discretion of the chief of staff, who "considering the reasons given" decided to accept the resignation and thanked him for the "important services rendered."

Industry and Energy Minister Luis H. Meyer will be acting agriculture and fishing minister.

NAVY DENIES PLANS TO BUY SUBMARINES FROM FRG

PY180126Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1923 GMT 17 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Montevideo, 17 Apr--The Uruguayan Navy denied today that it has ordered two submarines from the FRG as was reported by the specialized journal (PARA BELLUM) of Geneva.

Capt Alvaro Aguirre, Uruguayan Navy spokesman, stated that this purchase was not even planned for the near future.

(PARA BELLUM) had reported that these were two 209 attack submarines which are built by the Kiel shipyards.

Capt Aguirre added: "With all respect to the sources, this information is ridiculous" because of infrastructure problems and because of their operating depths.

BRIEFS

INFLATION RATE DECREASES--The cost of living increased 6.74 percent during this year's first quarter, according to reports from the statistics institute. This shows a remarkable decrease in inflationary growth since the cost of living increase for the same period last year reached 15 percent. The greatest increases during this quarter were in housing, food and clothing costs. [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 78 PY]

BOEINGS TO BE PURCHASED--Uruguayan National Airlines [PLUNA] has been authorized to purchase two used Boeing 727 series jets. The Bank of the Republic will finance the purchase, which amounts to $10.5 million. The planes will be bought this year and used for passenger flights to Brazil, Paraguay and maybe Chile. [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Apr 78 PY]

TUPAMAROS SENTENCED--Montevideo--Jose Schneider, a Tupamaro who was found guilty of 13 crimes, including an unsuccessful attack on a lieutenant colonel, was sentenced today by the Supreme Military Court to 27 years' imprisonment. The court also approved a sentence of 16 years in jail for Arturo Dubra, a Tupamaro and son of a former socialist legislator, and sentenced Lidia Pena de Rivero to 8 years' imprisonment. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0240 GMT 12 Apr 78 PY]

LOPEZ-PORTILLO TO VISIT IRAN

FL192317Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2106 GMT 19 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Apr (ANSA-INFORMEX)--It was learned today that Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo will visit Iran in response to an invitation from the shan of Iran, which was delivered by the new Iranian Ambassador to Mexico Bahman Ahanin. The date for the Mexican president's visit has not been set. It is considered of great importance and on the subject of petroleum resources. It is significant that yesterday, after presenting his credentials, the new Iranian diplomat stated that Mexico and Iran can complement each other's energy industry, which could have an extremely useful result for both countries.

PANAMANIANS IN EXILE REJECT TREATIES

PA190521Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[Text] A report from Mexico says that a group of Panamanian exiles who reside in Mexico went on a 24-hour hunger strike here tonight--that is, in Mexico City--to protest the U.S. Senate's ratification of the new Panama Canal treaties. The strike, which began at 2000, may be extended. Among the strikers are Diana Moran and Ramon Quintero, Panama national poetry prize winners, newsmen David and Jorge Turner, Mirna Castillero Calvo, Miguel Antonio Bernal, anthropologist Cesar Huertas and political leader Federico Britton.

In a press conference, the Panamanian exiles termed interventionist the contents of the new treaties. They said that the treaty amendments reveal the Carter administration's inability to be consistent in putting the theory of human rights it preaches into practice and that they revive the era of gunboat diplomacy. The Panamanians said that the reservations approved by the Senate today are mere rhetoric and do not abrogate the interventionist formulas. The basis for an intervention in Panama lies in the fact that the United States has tried to give itself the right to guarantee the neutrality of the canal, the exiles pointed out.

They warned that upon the present administration headed by Gen Omar Torrijos will fall the serious historic responsibility of complicity in reaching agreements which convert Panama into a protectorate and threaten all Latin America.

The exiles also rejected General Torrijos' invitation for all Panamanians in exile to return to their country without any conditions or requirements. More than Torrijos' simple statements we need guarantees that in our country one may, within the limitations of the constitution, struggle for the recovery of our sovereignty, they said.

For the Panamanian exiles in Mexico--approximately 10 out of a total of 200 that are out of the country for political reasons--Torrijos' invitation is nothing but an attempt to divert attention from the meaning of the ratification of the new canal treaties which, they say, legalize the permanence, in perpetuity, of U.S. troops in the Canal Zone.

TORRIJOS GRANTS INTERVIEW TO BARBARA WALTERS

PA200138Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[Interview of Gen Omar Torrijos, Panamanian chief of government, by U.S. journalist Barbara Walters on 19 April at his residence in Farallon--Walters speaks in English, followed by a Spanish translation; Torrijos replies in Spanish--recorded]

[Text] [Question] General, when you said that you would destroy the canal if the treaties were not ratified, were you serious?

[Answer] Yes, I meant it. It was a very painful decision but there was no other alternative.

[Question] Why?

[Answer] Because it would have left us without any hope of peaceful coexistence with the United States.

[Question] Why would you have done that?

[Answer] Because it would have left us without any hope for peaceful and harmonious coexistence with the United States.

[Question] Would you have broken off relations with the United States?

[Answer] No, but we realize that we would have been invaded.

[Question] By the United States?

[Answer] That is correct.

[Question] And what would have happened?

[Answer] World opinion would have fallen on the United States and world public opinion would have been Vietnamized.

[Question] How would you have destroyed the canal?

[Answer] It is very simple. The canal is as defenseless as a newborn baby. We know every critical point of the canal.

[Question] And you were going to take me with you last night, if you did this, so I could watch you?

[Answer] I thought about taking you along so that we would have witness to what we were going to do, but I was afraid they would shoot down the helicopter.

[Question] What would you do? Destroy one of the locks of the canal?

[Answer] I would have put the canal out of service for a long time.

[Question] General, was it wise to say this now, just when the treaty was ratified? Think of public opinion.

[Answer] Yes, it was wise--first, because it was a secret that I had kept for 10 years, and second, to give a lesson to those conservative men who like to humiliate weak countries.

[Question] What do you mean it was a secret you kept for 10 years? You had been planning this for 10 years?

[Answer] In 1968 all National Guard officers took an oath together with leaders of Panamanian youth that we would solve the problem of the colonial status through negotiations or a liberation movement.

[Question] General, what about the future of the canal? You often said that if the Americans intervened you would destroy the canal.

[Answer] Never before has the future of the canal been so secure as now. The same forces which were ready to put it out of service are now going to use it so that no one can it it any harm.

[Question] Is there a possibility if we intervene that you would destroy the canal? What do you mean by intervention?

[Answer] We are going to make everything possible, I can assure you of this. We are going to cooperate, we are going to make every effort to see that no one does any harm to the canal and that 40 ships go through the canal everyday--or 50 ships, also the oil from Alaska. We will be the first to see that nothing happens to the canal. This was made possible because 68 men in the U.S. Senate voted to make it possible.

[Question] I asked the other day if you had a message to American senators. Do you have a message today for Americans?

[Answer] Yes. During the U.S. Senate debates I was developing a bad opinion of the American people, because if the people were anything like what their representatives were saying, it meant that the American people were strictly colonialist. The result of the voting on the treaty ratification has changed my opinion into a more positive one of that great nation. The last thing I would like to happen is to lose them as friends.

[Question] Thank you, General.

REJOICING GREETS RATIFICATION; TORRIJOS SPEAKS TO TROOPS

PA191308Y Panama City KW Continente in Spanish 1134 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[Text] General rejoicement yesterday afternoon greeted the ratification of the canal treaty by the U.S. Senate as groups everywhere sang and danced in the streets, mainly concentrated at 5 May Plaza.

Following the ratification announcement, General Torrijos gave a radio and television press conference and later proceeded to the National Guard headquarters where he made the following statement to the troops:

I feel proud to be your commander, proud because we had everything ready. You were going to initiate the second phase if the treaties were rejected. We would no longer play the role of beggars in a second negotiation and tonight, the National Guard would have vindicated the dignity of this nation.

This can only be said by a commander who knows the quality of the troops he commands, a force which, man for man, constitutes the best units of the American armed forces. Thank you very much, boys.

POLITICAL PARTIES FORM BLOC, DEMAND TREATY PLEBISCITE

PA200034Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Forming a political bloc for the first time, the political parties in Panama known as the Panamenist, Liberal, Christian Democracy, and Democratic Independent Movement issued a manifesto expressing their disapproval of the statement made by Chief of Government Omar Torrijos and their rejection of the canal treaties ratification.

The bloc's leaders, representing the political parties, are Clovis Aleman, Jorge P. Adames, Luis Felipe Clement, Julio Harris, Diogenes Arosemena, Guillermo Cochez Jr, Anel Beliz, Ernesto Endara, Sammy Livy and Carlos Ivan Zuniga. They held a news conference at 1600 today to present their views to local and international newsmen regarding the ratification of the canal treaties by the U.S. Senate.

The political bloc believes that in order for the treaties with amendments to be legally accepted after ratification, they must be submitted to a plebiscite for approval or disapproval of the amendments. This is what Article 274 of the constitution stipulates. They also said that the government has the power to reject the treaties approved during the 23 October plebiscite but not to accept those with amendments.

With regard to the return of political exiles, the representatives of the political bloc said that the announcement by General Torrijos can be accepted by them only after a climate of tranquillity and democratization is guaranteed for their return.

Referring to establishment of political parties, the political bloc said that it was a positive step in line with the fundamental principles of a civilized society and political organizations, but that only with the participation of all sectors in organizing these parties will this be possible. They added that the only existing political parties in Panama are those which we mentioned before and they cannot be abolished by decree because they represent the majority of the Panamanian people.

Among other things, they demanded establishment of three constitutional branches, a truly national constituent assembly, another plebiscite and rejection of the canal treaties amendment and the government's adherence to the constitution. With regard to the return of some exiles, especially Dr Arnulfo Arias, they said that they did not know what the exiles had to say about all this but that they would demand guarantees.

RPC TELEVISION NEWS DIRECTOR PRAISES TREATY

PA190857Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[Editorial by station news director Fernando Eleta Casanova, via satellite from Washington--presumably live]

[Excerpts] Following 31 days of debates in the Senate the treaty on the operation of the Panama Canal was ratified by a vote of 68 to 32. On 16 March the U.S. Senate approved the neutrality treaty with the shameful DeConcini reservation. Today, after 14 years of arduous negotiations and difficult moments during which the Panamanian officials and people remained firm, we have achieved the objectives for which Ascanio Arosemena and other martyrs gave their lives and great Panamanians contributed hours of patriotic efforts, objectives for which Panama has been fighting while seeking justice since the first days of its independence.

It was a cause which became a religion for Latin America and which was supported in the United States by those men who represent the principles that guided the U.S. people to the understanding that strength entails the obligation to be just.

Today, 18 April, the U.S. Senate approved the canal treaty and an amendment to the resolution of ratification which casts aside the interventionist DeConcini reservation. According to its adherence to the principle of noninterference, any action that the United States may take while exercising its right to insure that the canal remain open, neutral and safe, according to the treaties and their resolutions for ratification, will be solely for those purposes and will not have, nor be interpreted to mean, the right to intervene in the domestic affairs of the Republic of Panama or interfere with its political independence or sovereign integrity. This action by the Senate, which supersedes the already abandoned interventionist aspirations of Senator Dennis DeConcini, who in the end voted in favor of the treaty, recognizes our rights as a free and sovereign state to regulate our domestic affairs throughout our territory without foreign orders or participation.

Within the resolution for ratification there is one more amendment that we should focus on, one introduced by Senator Russell Long which eliminates Paragraph 2 of Aricle 12, freeing Panama from the commitment of not negotiating with third countries for the construction of a sea-level canal and releasing the United States from the commitment of not pursuing the construction of such a sea-level waterway through another country. Paradoxically, this amendment favors Panama. The sea-level canal clause was a precondition imposed in July by President Carter during the Bogota minisummit. Today it ceased to exist.

In speaking about the treaties that were ratified in this city a few hours ago, we cannot ignore one of its aspects. The Torrijos-Carter treaties represent a great step forward from the 1903 treaty. As the greatest achievement of the Panamanians' tremendous efforts in a generation-long struggle, these pacts consolidate Panama's independence and also achieve the elimination of the Canal Zone, an open sore in the very heart of the fatherland. These agreements make effective our real and absolute sovereignty over all of Panama's territory. In a gradual fashion all installations in the Canal Zone will revert to Panama, ending with the delivery to Panama of the interoceanic waterway the day before the year 2000.

Upon integrating into Panama the territories which today comprise the Canal Zone, the 10th province, these treaties give a considerable boost to the country's economy with the benefits to be received from the operation of the canal and the promotion of a greater confidence in the future, provoking a larger socioeconomic development in the public and private sectors that will result in a higher standard of living for all Panamanians. Although the treaties give the United States the right to defend the present canal and any other waterway to be opened through Panama, placing us under the Pentagon's protective umbrella, these treaties state that this shall be without a physical U.S. military presence and without foreign interference in our political life or territorial sovereignty.

With these thoughts in mind we believe that every Panamanian who analyzes these treaties conscientiously, not from the viewpoint of complicated theories of international politics but bearing in mind the best interests of the fatherland, will conclude that these documents, although not the treaty to end all treaties, represent a great step forward toward the achievement of our patriotic national aspirations. In accepting them the Panamanian Government took the right step. From Washington, congratulations Panama and good night.

CRITICA EDITORIAL HAILS TREATY RATIFICATION

PA191634Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 19 Apr 78 p 4 PA

[Editorial: "Yesterday's Victory"]

[Text] The events the Panamanian people experienced yesterday made history. The ratification of the Panama Canal treaty and the elimination of the opprobrious DeConcini reservation, originally devised to harm the pact on permanent neutrality and the operation of the canal, are reasons to rejoice. Right now we are writing euphorically and we must leave for future editorials an in-depth, structured and calm analysis of the pacts that were approved with the reservations, amendments and understandings added by the U.S. senators. However, it must be admitted at this time of civic fervor that much of our national dignity has been recovered and that as far as the colonialist fetters are concerned, the prospects of shedding them have become even more encouraging than they were just a couple of days ago.

During his speech delivered with a simple and telling significance, Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera, the chief of our revolution, stated some major truths after making an overall analysis of the enormous struggle waged to the very last minute in search of respect for the dignity of his people. No one else has been so vilified for his pride as he who admitted it without complaint. However, the major objectives of the man who risked everything to achieve his country's liberation--if not total liberation, at least the road that will lead to its attainment--have been accomplished.

In his important remarks, he told the Panamanian people that 2 days ago he had decided on liberation if the final peaceable attempt were to fail in the U.S. Senate.

He also stated that after tomorrow, as he had promised, all political exiles will be able to return to the country. Concerning the reappearance of the political parties, he took it for granted because he realizes that large segments of the population want that and it is essential to keep all groups in Panamanian society mentally healthy.

Regarding the economy, he was reticent about immediate offers but gave assurances that the tremendous recession experienced in recent years--because the country suffered one of its most acute collapses [colapsos]--will disappear once the return of the Canal Zone begins in earnest.

As of tomorrow, with the calmness that the historical circumstances require, we will begin to concern ourselves with matters profoundly related to the life of the canal. However, today we want to be consistent with a man who has the right, beyond anyone else in this country, to feel happy because after a struggle of Homeric dimensions he is beginning to see that in this case victory has "shining glimmers of glory" [phrase taken from Panama's national anthem] precisely because he did not want to have "exclusive authorship rights" [phrase taken from Torrijos' 18 April speech] and instead chose to work with all those who wanted or were able to accompany him along the "gleeful road of unity." [phrase taken from Panama's national anthem]

MATUTINO EDITORIAL EXTOLS TREATY VICTORY

PA192217Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 19 Apr 78 pp 1A, 4A PA

[Editorial: "Just as It Says in the National Anthem"]

[Text] We have managed to set a date and an hour, both determined by us, to ring the alarm clock of our total liberation. We have struggled for a long time amid gestures of rejection and smiles of offending sarcasm to reach the shore--which seemed beyond reach--of a day in which we might join together at one time both our sacrifice and the respectful understanding of the world which we serve by generously offering a passage that has always been a sore wound in our land and in the dignity of our historic personality.

That day has come: That day was yesterday 18 April 1978, the date on which we Panamanians told the 21st century that when it dawns the document that this small nation has signed with the greatest colossus of all time will be a public document enforced worldwide. It is a document that had to withstand the rough seas of modifications, amendments, reservations and understandings that nobody, least of all the simple but honest people who understand only unquestionable concepts, understood.

The treaties just ratified by the U.S. Senate include a very high percentage of the Panamanian demands that in the past could not have exceeded the limits of an unreachable hope. Today they have become realities. They constitute truths shaped by the fact that as of this very day, we Panamanians will have the responsibility of operating, maintaining and defending, with the consent of the free peoples of the world, this canal, which is not only a sea route, but a path to a better future for men of all times.

We have traversed this long road by leaning on the strong staff that Panama placed in the hands of Omar Torrijos Herrera and which he, as a missionary of our truth and emotions, presented not to the ears but to the hearts of other peoples, with other languages, with other interests, with other problems but still full of that abiding respect accorded the force of reason that overcomes reasons of force.

By virtue of this decisive moment in history, Panama now faces a serious obligation: that of having and knowing how to have. We already have the right we have always claimed, because it was always ours. Now we must be deserving of the trust that the world places in us to face a responsibility greater than the dimensions of our struggle.

We have achieved a victory: that of justice. And because of the progress made, the initial lines of our national anthem have become an undeniable truth: "We have finally achieved victory...."

LA REPUBLICA WELCOMES TREATY RATIFICATION

PA191658Y Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 18 Apr 78 p 7A PA

[Editorial: "The Task Is Over"]

[Text] The U.S. Senate's approval of the Panama Canal treaty is a positive step forward in the Panamanian people's struggle for liberation.

The task has taken a long time and it was never easy. It was a struggle that continuously involved all republican generations in the task of defending the ideal of freedom and the anticolonialist banner.

This struggle is now won after paying a high price in blood, pain and lives and after drying the tears of the mothers, wives and children who saw their dead ones become the martyrs of dignity and sovereignty.

The historical vote to return to Panama its sovereignty and jurisdiction over the territory lost in 1903 ended very recently. Even the latest reports on this are just beginning to be interpreted. However, the national tempo is already reflected in the conviction that we will be able to accept the challenge that history poses and, furthermore, not just accept but efficiently and with dedication carry out all the tasks related to the normal and efficient operation of the Panama Canal, a vital waterway for international trade and for the socioeconomic development of our country.

As Panamanians, we feel proud of the victory. We are also thankful for the moral support provided at all times by the international community. We humbly thank the Creator for guiding us at all times, for giving us the fortitude to overcome all difficulties which were many and very serious but not enough for us to lose the determination which in the end has led us to national victory. We must now view victory in the most patriotic and positive fashion as an honor to those who fell during the struggle and a promise for future generations.

A supreme effort was needed at the last minute in order to make Panama's will prevail. Panama was not willing to accept impositions which in the future would serve as an excuse for our aggressions against national sovereignty and dignity. However, with calmness and determination we were able to overcome those obstacles and we can now say with pride that "the canal belongs to us, that we will know how to run it, that we will know how to use it and that when this transition period is over the Panamanians who observe the dawning of the first day of the year 2000 will receive a free and united homeland which is geographically integrated."

Now with upright heads, clear minds and strong hearts, let us march forward because there is still much to be done before concluding the work of national consolidation.

LA ESTRELLA: WHAT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED

PA192028Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 Apr 78 pp 1, 4 PA

[Editorial: "The Senate's Ratification of the Canal Treaty"]

[Text] Even though we must maintain a calm watch, we can indeed say that we have reached the end of a journey which has lasted no less than three quarters of a century. The news of the U.S. Senate's ratification of the treaties signed in Washington by President Carter and General Torrijos on 7 September last year in a solemn ceremony of singular historic importance has filled us with happiness and satisfaction and with an immense amount of patriotic feeling. The Senate decision did not surprise us in the least because we expected it with steadfast faith. Deep down we must offer a most sincere and warm tribute to the great North American people whom we have always admired.

Even though powerful forces of great material resources opposed the ratification of the treaties, we were always convinced that they were in the minority. [paragraph continues]

We were always sure that in the United States, even though backward, reactionary, ignorant and selfish elements who have not been displaced from power still exist, there are only small, increasingly insignificant groups which cultivate ancestral prejudices but who are being cornered and left behind by new elements who have a clear vision and proper concept of the world, especially the transcendental role to be played today and in the future by the U.S. people with their enterprising genius, sparkling initiative, prodigious technology and colossal economic power. This is patently shown by the fact that the Senate approved a resolution rectifying Senator DeConcini's reservation to respect the principle of "nonintervention" and the territorial integrity and political independence of Panama.

It is these new and vigorous forces--of which President Carter and a large number of illustrious senators are a part--which fortunately understood the absolute impossibility of harmonizing the noble ideal of freedom of men and nations supported by the U.S. Government, and thus upholding its prestige, with the continued existence of a colonialist situation, an injurious relic of an ill-intentioned act of plunder perpetrated in darkness. We say in darkness because it was at night and with not witnesses when in a sinister meeting Secretary of State Hay and the Frenchman, Bunau Varilla, drafted the unfortunate treaty of 1903. We say ill-intentioned because the victim was the Republic of Panama, just recnetly independent and not able to defend itself against the clear threats and certain dangers which loomed over it.

It is to this new generation of North Americans, to which belong a large number of very prestigious political figures, that the ratification of the treaties by the U.S. Senate is indebted. With this act, the U.S. Senate has erased a blot which stained U.S. history since 1903. There is no point in denying that, when the most illustrious internationalists of all countries were informed that the Hay-Bunau Varilla treaty was still in force, they could not hide their amazement at such a legal monstrosity which was a denial of what the United States proclaimed as its foreign policy guide--the legal equality of states and the inalienable right of all free nations to their territorial integrity.

What but a few years ago appeared to be impossible has been achieved. Many factors have combined to reach such a satisfactory result which fills us with joy and a feeling of responsibility. The national government and the Panamanian people will have to shoulder a heavy burden regarding what we will recover. Naturally, the names of President Carter and General Torrijos have been written in the history of the great events in our hemisphere with indelible ink alongside other definitely memorable dates.

In thanking those who have made possible what has been attained, General Torrijos' outstanding figure is first, a position which nobody can challenge because it all occurred due to his tenacity, to his burning faith in the cause he represented, to his singular ability to direct the process of the negotiations and push them forward when they appeared obstructed and inter-Americanize our great national problem, thereby obtaining for us the decided support of all the other people of our continent.

For those who voted in favor of the treaties' ratification, our eternal gratitude and also our congratulations for honoring the high investiture which is the office of senator of the United States. And for those who did everything possible to prevent the treaties from being ratified, our commiseration over their defeat. We hope that what happened will serve them as an instructive lesson so they will avoid future mistakes.

CRITICA ON TREATY RATIFICATION, NEED FOR CONTINUED STRUGGLE

PA191759Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 19 Apr 78 pp 16, 17, 20 PA

[By the editorial staff of CRITICA: "Thank You, Omar, We Are Free"]

[Text] Yesterday's ratification of the canal treaty by the U.S. Senate set a date to end the era of colonialism in Panama. This is the opinion of the great majority of the Panamanian people who followed closely the difficult negotiations undertaken 13 years ago by both governments that have come to a happy conclusion after 10 weeks of debate in the U.S. Senate. The treaties' ratification "was a painful childbirth which almost ended in an abortion," said a newsman who is mistrustful of the fierce militarism of the North Americans "who can take away everything they give if the conditions imposed are not met according to Uncle Sam's criteria."

This opinion notwithdstanding, a last-minute amendment which was introduced to save the treaties from a definite collapse summarizes the North Americans' desire not to intervene in Panama's internal affairs or threaten Panama's independence and territorial integrity. This amendment partially softened another reservation attached to the neutrality treaty last month which, under the sponsorship of the obscure and heretofore unknown Senator Dennis DeConcini, defined an interventionist policy on the part of the United States. DeConcini's entrance onto the scene of the debates aroused the indignation of Panamanians who were about to reject the new pacts if the North Americans did not give proof of their good intentions.

After the bitter draught, "a worthy solution to a difficult problem" was found according to the words of Panamanian Ambassador to the United States Gabriel Lewis Galindo. That was the conciliatory amendment which says that the United States does not have "the right of intervention in the internal affairs of Panama and can use force only if necessary to keep the canal open, neutral, secure and accessible." It was approved by the U.S. Senate with 73 votes in favor and 27 opposed. Nevertheless, the final vote on the canal treaty was as close as that of the neutrality treaty, with identical results: 68 to 32.

Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos, who up until that moment had maintained a silence which carried over to his entire government staff, said a few minutes after the signing "that he was willing to use the route of violent liberation" if the pacts had been rejected.

Groups opposing the Panama treaties "with or without amendments" had announced a demonstration for yesterday afternoon but it was virtually overwhelmed by thousands of euphoric Panamanians who went out into the streets to celebrate what they considered "the burial of colonialism."

The happiness of a people who have waited three quarters of a century for this historic moment was almost turned into sorrow by the slim margin of two votes. General Torrijos himself had said minutes after the test by fire that in the world there has never been such an abused country which has seen so close at hand the domination of imperialism as this little country of Panama. And perhaps, if the "injurious and interventionist" DeConcini reservation had not been softened, the canal would have been rendered inoperative last night. Only two votes separated us from that possibility which presaged clouds of violence here in Panama.

Yesterday, this country's history took a different course. A carnival of euphoria swept over the entire country. In the interior provinces fireworks were set off and street dancing was improvised celebrating the Panamanian victory. About 30,000 persons danced at 5 May Plaza to the music of improvised bands.

Today has been declared a public holiday. General Torrijos himself said over a national radio and television network that "he was proud of the mission accomplished."

U.S. President Carter has announced his visit to Panama to give General Torrijos the treaty ratification documents, but did not set a date for his trip. Carter also took advantage of the opportunity to give a message to a world which was awaiting the outcome of the negotiations. The U.S. chief executive said "the Panama Canal treaties also represent a new era in relations between the United States and the rest of the world and the mutual respect with which the United States will conduct its relations with small nations." In a speech begun in Spanish, Jimmy Carter said the United States has no right to intervene in the internal affairs of Panama.

For both government leaders, the ratification of these controversial treaties is both a moral and political victory. The Panamanian chief of state appears to be at the pinnacle of his career and Carter has been able to overcome an obstacle which could have meant a defeat of unforeseen consequences.

The recovery of the Panama Canal and its adjacent area of 1,000 square kilometers and the prompt elimination of the "fifth border" have been the Torrijos government's main objectives. Twenty-two years still remain for the final attainment of that goal. The dream of all Panamanians will not become a reality until 31 December 1999. As General Torrijos said, with the passage of the treaties yesterday, "a termination date for colonialism has been set." Only after 30 months have passed will the so-called Panama Canal Zone be dissolved and Panama will assume jurisdiction over the 16-kilometer-wide sector which at present divides the country. At that time, Panamanian authorities will take over police, judicial and other functions.

It is also expected that by the year 2,000 no U.S. soldier will remain on Panamanian territory. By that time we will have definitely buried the colonial phantom. However, this phantom will remain for 22 more years in that strip of Panamanian territory in a countdown situation which now has a deadline.

A death blow was dealt yesterday to colonialist pretensions of perpetuity in a territory which has no desire to be intervened or to become one more star of an imperialism which now agonizes slowly and inexorably.

General Torrijos has kept his promise. And the people are willing to die in order to leave future generations a free fatherland rather than submit to the orders of imperialism. This and nothing else is the meaning of General Torrijos' words when he said that Panama would not have renegotiated the treaties if they had been rejected by the Senate. "Panama will destroy the canal if the United States intervenes in our country," Torrijos said.

With these statements by the Panamanian chief of government, it is clear that Panamanians are willing to fight until the last man to attain definite liberation. If U.S. troops try to come to Panama, they will be surprised to find a useless canal, the Panamanian leader emphasized.

This has been the philosophy which guided the people in attaining what at the beginning seemed an unreachable goal--the definite recovery of what has always belonged to them and what had been denied them by the designs of imperialist domination.

The countdown toward definite liberation started yesterday. The struggle will continue, but the first blows have been dealt and our people have not thought of turning back until their definite liberation. Let there be no doubt about this.

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT-ELECT WELCOMES CANAL TREATY RATIFICATION

PA200200Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1530 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 19 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Costa Rican President-Elect Rodrigo Carazo Odio joined in the international rejoicing voiced in the wake of the U.S. Senate's ratification of the treaty which cedes the canal to Panama.

In respective messages sent to Panamanian Chief of Government Omar Torrijos and U.S. President James E. Carter last night, Carazo praised their attitude "which strengthens inter-American relations and opens new paths for an American dialog which requires tangible and honest results."

He stated that the approval of the Panama Canal treaty renews the American people's faith in dialog as a formula for coexistence and as an instrument for peace.

Yesterday, the current chief of state, Daniel Oduber, issued a statement congratulating the Panamanians for their victory, the maturity shown throughout the negotiations and the success achieved in neutralizing Sen Dennis DeConcini's amendment which, according to Oduber, had a dangerous interventionist connotation.

The Council of Ministers has issued a similar statement. Today's morning papers published on their front pages the happy results of the voting on the treaty.

Many Costa Ricans listened to the U.S. Senate debates and followed the voting with much interest.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT WELCOMES CANAL TREATY RATIFICATION

PA192338Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2015 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan Government today expressed satisfaction over the U.S. Senate's ratification of the new Panama Canal treaty yesterday. Guatemalan Acting Foreign Minister Luis Aycinena publicly stated that it was a victory for the Panamanian people and their legitimate and just struggle. He expressed satisfaction over the attitude of U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who yesterday announced "his interest in helping solve Latin America's problems within a framework of cooperation among equals."

For his part, Guatemalan President-Elect Gen Romeo Lucas sent warm greetings to the people and leaders of Panama for their success in regaining the interoceanic canal. Lucas, who will become president of Guatemala on 1 July, declared that one of his first actions when he comes to power will be to resume diplomatic relations with Panama.

The current Guatemalan president, Gen Kjell Laugerud, broke relations with the government of Omar Torrijos last year after Torrijos voiced his support for the independence of Belize, a territory which Guatemala claims from Great Britain.

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA VISITS HONDURAS FOR MEETING WITH MELGAR CASTRO

PA191944Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1855 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 19 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle this morning flew to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. An official source revealed that General Somoza is visiting the Honduran capital on the invitation of Honduran head of state Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro. The two generals will discuss topics of interest to both countries and to the Central American area, according to a report by the Nicaraguan Information and Press Secretariat. Nicaragua's chief executive will return today.

Earlier this month, General Somoza went to El Salvador for a meeting with President Carlos Humberto Romero. Through these meetings, President Somoza is attempting to arrange a meeting of presidents of the Central American area.

UNOFFICIAL REACTION TO TREATY APPROVAL POSITIVE

PA200414Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0115 GMT 20 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 19 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--"Panama's victory is also that of all America," stated a message sent by the president of the Democratic Liberation Union [UDEL] today to Panama's Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos.

Rafael Cordova Rivas, chairman of the coalition of opposition political parties and two of the largest labor centrals in the country, told Torrijos that "we supported you in your anti-imperialist struggle and we are now with you in victory." This has been the most visible Nicaraguan reaction to yesterday's U.S. Senate approval of the treaties which guarantee the return of the Panama Canal to the government of that country.

UDEL also sent a message to President Jimmy Carter telling him that "he will go down in history as the U.S. President who was able to subordinate the strategic interests of his country to moral and human values and to respect for a small Latin American country."

Meanwhile, the Managua newspaper LA PRENSA today published a front-page photograph of General Torrijos accompanied by his advisers Aristides Royo and Romulo Escobar Bethancourt as they followed with much interest the televised transmissions from Washington.

NOVEDADES, the progovernment morning newspaper, published a front-page banner headline entitled "Return of the Panama Canal Approved."

In addition, the capital's radio and television media gave wide coverage last night to international news reports which were transmitted by news agencies from Panama and Washington on reactions in the different capitals of the world to the news.

Up until today, Wednesday, the Nicaraguan Government had still not issued a statement on the U.S. Senate decision.

SOMOZA RELEASES FSLN MEMBER, STUDENT STRIKE ABATES

PA200243Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1919 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 19 Apr (AFP)--Monica Baltonado, a member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] who was arrested several days ago, was released today by order of President Anastasio Somoza. According to an official announcement, this has put an end to the student strike which has lasted for more than 1 week in Nicaragua. Giving in to the pressure of approximately 50,000 students, Somoza not only ordered the release of Baltonado but agreed to end the solitary confinement imposed on other prominent FSLN members, such as Tomas Borge and Marcio Jaenz.

The situation returned to normal in the middle education schools occupied by the students supporting the demand of FSLN prisoners to be kept in the same cells and to protest against the arrest of Monica Baltonado. Education Minister Maria Helena Porras announced today that classes can resume immediately. Approximately 50 public and private secondary schools in 10 Nicaraguan cities were closed and occupied by the students during the protest.

GOVERNMENT ENDS ISOLATION OF FSLN PRISONERS

PA191620Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Excerpts] Last night, the government decided to end the 2-year isolation of prisoners Tomas Borge Martinez and Marcio Jaenz, members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] who have been sentenced to 30 and 3 years in prison, respectively. With this measure, the government seeks to end a hunger strike by more than 100 persons, including relatives of the political prisoners and leaders of student organizations and civic organizations. The hunger strike was begun 22 days ago by Albertina Serrano, mother of Marcio Jaenz.

Managua Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo has met with President Anastasio Somoza regarding the student demands to end the isolation of the political prisoners, the renewal of the school term, no reprisals against the students and the conditional release of a woman who is serving a sentence for terrorist activities and who gave birth in a military hospital. So far, the government has only accepted five of the seven demands of the students and relatives of political prisoners. Still pending are the demands dealing with legal matters and the request for the transfer of Sandinist women prisoners from the police headquarters where prison conditions are deficient.

The position of the strikers is that the government must fulfill the other points before they can end their protest. Their new demands include the reopening of the agricultural school which was closed by the government after the students occupied it to demand the rehiring of 18 teachers dismissed during the January sitdown strike.

PEDRO MIRET MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF PLAYA GIRON VICTORY

FL200335 [Editorial Report FL] Havana Domestic Services, Radio Liberacion and Havana Television channel 6 at 0129 GMT on 20 April carry live coverage of ceremony being held at the Lazaro Pena auditorium in Havana City marking the 17th anniversary of the victory at Playa Giron.

Black-and-white television coverage opens with shots of the audience. An unidentified announcer describes the purpose of the ceremony and its background. When the curtain is raised at 0135 GMT, there is a picture of Playa Giron on the backdrop and the words: "Seventeenth anniversary of the Giron victory."

The national anthem is played at 0136 GMT. On the stage to the viewers' left is a podium and a Cuban flag. The television camera pans the dais. At 0137 GMT a television staff announcer goes to the podium and announces that: "PCC Central Committee members Armando Hart Davalos and Pedro Miret Prieto, vice presidents of the Council of Ministers and other Central Committee members, party, state and mass organization leaders are presiding over this event. Present at this event are members of the diplomatic corps accredited in our country." Central Committee members Jorge Lezcano and Jose Ramirez Cruz are seen on stage. The announcer then states that Pedro Miret will make the main speech.

At 0138 GMT PCC Politburo member Pedro Miret Prieto begins speaking. Following his speech, which ends at 0221 GMT, the announcer states that a cultural activity is to follow depicting the events at Playa Giron. The cultural event begins immediately and ends at 0256 GMT. Television coverage ends at 0257 GMT.

Text of Miret Speech

FL200259Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0138 GMT 20 Apr 78 FL

[Speech by PCC Politburo member Pedro Miret Prieto at commemorative activity marking the 17th anniversary of the victory in Playa Giron, held at the central organization of Cuban workers Lazaro Pena auditorium--live]

[Text] Comrades on the presidium, Comrades all: Amid hymns and flowers, with the creative enthusiasm of our people and with combat flags flying high in the wind today, we commemorate, with justified pride, the 17th anniversary of the victory at Playa Giron and of the proclamation of the socialist nature of our revolution. [applause]

Seventeen years have passed since then and time has not succeeded in erasing the memory of those heroic days of April 1961. This is because the deeds of their sons have been written forever in the hearts of the masses, engrained in history, in a cult that knows no time, that has no death and survives the waning of life.

At this moment of honor, the glory and the gratitude of the fatherland belongs to them, our militiamen, the members of the national revolutionary police, artillerymen, tank crews, pilots and all who died in combat.

On 16 April, when we were marching to bury our dead, who had been the victims of the vandalic aggression of the previous day perpetrated by the agents of imperialism, and the socialist nature of our revolution was proclaimed, that prediction of Marx that not only must reality clamor for ideas but ideas must clamor for reality was fulfilled. In April 1961, the Cuban revolution had already fulfilled the Moncada national liberation program which--as we well know--although not a socialist program was a program that opened the door to socialism.

The revolution was not going to stop. It was not going to mark time without moving ahead. It was not going to retrace the path in the face of the obstacles imposed by the reactionary classes who had been deposed. The only alternative left was to advance or perish, of fatherland or death, of socialism or capitalism. To renounce the socialist life of development would have meant frustrating the continuity of the revolutionary process, emptying it of content, throwing into the pockets of capitalists, big landowners and imperialists the sacrifices, sweat and blood shed by the people in 100 years of struggle for economic independence, national sovereignty and social justice.

In the face of the imminent imperialist aggression, without being able to predict its scope or the seriousness of the drama that was threatening the country at a climactic moment in the nation's history, the people did not hesitate, did not shake, did not become terrified. They took a step forward, raised their fatherland, with a deafening cry of faith and victory, proclaimed the socialist nature of our revolution. [applause]

The universal idea of socialism had definitely taken root in the national growth of the Cuban revolution. However, socialist consciousness did not emerge like lightning from a clear sky. It was the result of a process, the fruit of a seed, the conscious, although accelerated, reflection of the radical changes that had taken place in the structure of our economy and our society. The people's taking on awareness and the path of their political development cannot be analyzed outside these fundamental changes made in the relations of production.

The laws and measures adopted by the revolution, the agrarian reform law, reduction of rent and electricity charges, expropriation of monopolies and nationalization of North American companies, the purge of the public administration, the policy aimed at eliminating unemployment and dead time in our country, the struggle to raise the public health and education levels, the democratic freedoms granted to the people, in addition to many other achievements in only 2 years, undoubtedly constituted the foundation on whose framework a new concept of the world and of society began to form in our people.

And, although proverbally changes in consciousness take place less quickly than changes in material relations and the former not too often are left behind the latter, in Cuba the development of the revolution and the violent struggle of classes unleashed nationally as well as internationally accelerated the socialist awareness of the people.

The program of achievements that we had pushed since the triumph of the insurrection itself was followed with bitter hostility by Yankee imperialism. The imperialist action and the revolutionary response, and vice versa, were dialectically associated throughout the entire course of events. The Yankee capitalists did not have few economic investments and interests in Cuba. But more than immediate interests, in Cuba they had one more state, one more link, one more part of the world machinery of capitalism.

After January 1959, imperialism, which was unable to understand the nature of the process which the centennial generation initiated in our country on 26 July 1953, tried at all costs to prevent its radicalization. To this end, it resorted to all the counterrevolutionary expediencies, to the old prescriptions and the new methods of subversion and sabotage. It put everything into play in the path to crush the revolution.

It used blackmail, bribery, pirate attacks, crimes against our workers, peasants and students, organization of armed bands which were able to operate from one end of the national territory to the other, economic boycott, all the tricks, and all of them failed noisily. Having exhausted all attempts, it resorted to military aggression and this one also had its drastic epilog on a day like today 17 years ago. [applause]

They estimated that we would not resist economic pressure and we did resist it. The imperialists, of course, used an objective reality in their policy of extortion and blackmail and it was the fact that we were totally dependent on the United States.

Eighty percent of our trade was carried out there. From there came 90 percent of our supplies for industry and transportation, machinery, spare parts and technology, and almost 100 percent of the raw materials. From there came all the petroleum we consumed and over there went the sugar we sold. The country did not have a merchant fleet or hydroelectric energy or steel or a machinery industry. We had an economy that was a complement of the U.S. economy.

Deep in its cloudy mind, imperialism was convinced that by suppressing the supply of fuels, the sugar fleet and trade, we would succumb as victims of economic collapse. But they overlooked the fact that we were not living in the times of Wilson and that there existed the socialist camp.

Comrade Fidel, in a speech made in Chile on the occasion of his visit to that country during the government of President Salvador Allende, said: How is it that they were unable to crush the Cuban revolution despite an unfavorable balance of forces and our being so close to the United States? And he concluded: It was because two factors were united--the boldness of the Cuban revolutionaries and, we could also say, the boldness of the Soviet Union. [applause]

The petroleum which the United States withheld from us was provided to us by the USSR which at that time did not have today's production and did not have a transport fleet. The sugar that the United States did not buy from us was acquired by the USSR although it is a big sugar producer. The Soviet Union gave us the arms with which we faced the imperialist hordes in Giron and from the USSR came the invaluable encouragement of proletarian internationalism, not converted into high-sounding and hollow slogans but converted into material facts, in warm, direct, constant and concrete support without which the Cuban revolution could not have been maintained.

In its endeavor to halt the Latin American revolution, neutralize the labor movement and the progressive social forces and maintain its domination over this part of the world, imperialism then invented that big swindle, the Alliance for Progress. The alliance, however, dissolved like a piece of soap without the least contact with reality. They now want to revitalize similar ideas in the face of the impetuous revolutionary movement in Africa. They speak of reforms. They want to pose as democrats and so forth. Fortunately, the African revolutionaries know very well what imperialism can give.

Comrades, just as the British and French revolutions, to cite Marx, expressed much more the needs of the world at that time than the needs of those parts of the world in which they took place, the Cuban revolution, like the October Revolution, expressed the needs of the modern world more than its own specific needs. It was no longer the rebellion of a people against the national oligarchy for the purpose of simply provoking a government change. It was a rebellion against one method of universal production which subjugated them as a nation and which exploited them as a system.

What did the presence in Latin America of a revolution that proclaimed, as the fundamental motto, the struggle against capital, private ownership and man's exploitation of man represent for the United States of America? The hostility against Cuba and its revolution was not inspired only by the effects suffered in our country by the Yankee monopolies and companies and its national figureheads, but by the political, moral, ideological and economic implications of a process that rebelled against capitalism and its institutions.

Cuba represented a danger to the social order and spiritual peace of imperialism, a threat to the acquisition of our raw materials at low prices and to the sale at high prices of the products manufactured by the industrialized capitalist metropolises, a threat to the exportation of capital to our weak republics, a threat to the cheap and humiliating pay for the native labor force, a threat to the voracious loans and the continuous interventions in the domestic affairs of our countries.

In 1961, according to statistics of ECLA [Economic Commission for Latin America] $1.735 billion were taken out of Latin America in foreign investments and similar remittances, $1.456 billion in payments for short-term debts. If we add to this the indirect loss determined by the unequal trade which amounts to $2.26 billion and the capital estimated at more than $400 million [as heard], the total figure amounts to more than $6.2 billion.

These interests were strategically threatened by the Cuban revolution. The brigade of mercenaries which landed that morning 17 years ago represented these interests. It was not a historic accident or an occasional change in the course of events. Actually, nothing happened that could not have happened within the logic of the social process that was taking place. The imperialist attack could have been before or after the date it took place, more to the north or more to the south from the place where it was. However, following the course of events, inevitably the military aggression organized, financed, armed and nursed by the CIA and by the warmongering circles of the United States of North America was to be expected.

The history itself of the class struggle and its lessons, sometimes not learned well, advised us to remain alert and prepared. Never in the world have revolutions been a bed of roses. Never in the world have the exploiters resigned themselves to lose their privileges, their sources of wealth. They have never resigned themselves to being expropriated.

International reaction arose angrily in 1871 against the Paris Communes, harassing and persecuting them throughout the world after drowning in a blood bath the attempt of the proletariat in arms to reach for the clouds. And 14 capitalist states laid an infernal siege of fire and hunger to try to crush the October Revolution in its cradle.

If in the 1930's the imperialist powers flagrantly intervened in the Spanish Peninsula to eliminate the Spanish Republic; if on the eve of World War II they encouraged the growth of fascism and in the course of the war they shamefully and impudently tried by all means to bleed the Soviet Union by delaying the opening of the second European front and avoiding effective assistance to the Red Army; if after the victory against the Nazi-fascist axis they unleashed the cold war, atomic blackmail and the most primitive persecution against the world labor and communist movement; if they are systematically fighting whatever revolutionary and progressive process has emerged anywhere and under any circumstances, what could we expect from the most bestial of imperialisms located just miles from our coasts?

What happened is well known. The mercenary brigade, with naval and air support, tried to establish a beachhead on national territory, form a provisional government and request the intervention of the OAS, in other words, of the United States. The Cuban people, cohesive around Fidel, the program of the revolution and the ideology of socialism, dealt an overwhelming and crushing blow to the invaders. In less than 72 hours, the counterrevolutionary attack was liquidated. The imperialists dreams of spring crumbled like a sand castle.

This was possible because we did not rest on our laurels, as the saying goes. We did not relax with the achievements attained. We did not become confident, knowing as we did the rapacious nature of imperialism.

From the initial days of the insurrectional triumph we took on the task of strengthening defense capability and of developing a new type of army which would have its growing nucleus and backbone in the rebel army. And that new type of army, armed branch of the working class and of the revolution, nourished by the most select of the youths and people, wrote, along with the courageous militiamen, a page of glory in the history of struggles of our fatherland.

If those who handled the weapons in Giron were a group of inexperienced combatants, now, through work and constant improvement, our revolutionary armed forces have specialized cadres and soldiers with a high combat capability. Today, in the face of any imperialist aggression, our soldiers would come out to fight. In addition to their modern weapons they possess the same patriotism, valor and revolutionary conviction of the heroes of Giron because, as Comrade Rual has said, the principal foundation of the strength of our combatants is not found in the arms they handle but in the Marxist-Leninist ideology they assert and their unity with the working class whose interests they defend.

The worthy combatants of that exemplary army, and not others, the followers of Che and Camilo, and not others, that new type of army that was victorious in Giron, and not any other, are the same that crossed the ocean to offer their solidary support to Angola and Ethiopia in the long struggle of those peoples for their independence and national sovereignty. [prolonged applause]

And today, in a gesture of exemplary humanitarianism, along with our combatants are our doctors and health technicians, our builders, our young educators and the representatives of many other sectors of the economy, culture, production and services.

The victories of Angola and Ethiopia consitute new Girons in mankind's battle against imperialism.

In remembering the unforgettable feat at Giron, we pay emotional tribute to the heroism of the people, to the combative glory of our rebel army and to the militia tradition forged in combat.

Today we have not come to regret with bitter crying the necessary death that is productive and rises up. The fatherland's dead are like the knowledge of life and even the least homage is paid them with the work of life. In every year in worthy homage to those killed in April 1961, the people have massively joined in the principle tasks of our economy, especially those related to the sugar harvest and sugarcane agriculture.

The "Victoria de Giron drive" initiated the first of this month and which ends precisely today has served as the framework for this productive enthusiasm of the masses. With the invincible spirit of the heroes of Giron, today we are facing the needs of this phase of building the material and technical base of the new society.

There are many activities that require tenacious, devoted and sustained dedication. The party, the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Workers], UJC [Union of Young Communists], ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers], the mighty millionaire movement [in the sugar harvest], our agricultural workers, peasants, workers mobilized from the cities, students, and youth labor army are doing titanic work to guarantee-in these 100 days of decisive effort, which are the most critical--a sugar harvest superior to previous ones, which will allow us to fulfill our export commitments with the socialist countries and those contracted in the international sugar market. And along with the objective of making a superior harvest, there is also the one of assuring consistent preparation for the 1979 and 1980 harvests.

Today we wage battle by cutting, collecting, cleansing, planting and fertilizing sugarcane. We wage it beside the courtyards of the centrals in our search for greater industrial development. We wage the battle for development on land and in the plains, at sea and in the mines. This battle is not won overnight with a single blow from a handful of men. Instead, it has to be won by the people, blow by blow, every day.

The work for which our martyrs have fallen grows and multiplies incessantly. There is virtually not a single corner of this country where the silent, creative daily actions of the enormous social forces unleashed by the revolution are not present. Fish and bread do not multiply by the work or grace of divine will but through the divine creative will of the masses. It is not a matter of miracles wrought by the revolution or of a miraculous revolution. Rather, it is a matter connected with the fact that when the most advanced technology is joined to social action, scientific socialism, the proletariat, Marxism-Leninism, man's natural desire for social equality and justice, then heroic deeds seem mythical and the human kingdom appears like the work of Heaven before the eyes of men who have no faith in mankind.

How is it possible that in the face of so many obstacles and such powerful enemies we are building this beautiful nation for the future? It is possible because we have not renounced the ideals of our dead ones. On the contrary, their example has strengthened the will of the revolutionaries to march on the road that they have pointed out.

An irresolute revolution would have been defeated. A listless revolution would have been crushed. A disunited and guideless people would have been humiliated and forced to face the gallows. [applause]

However, the people have nurtured themselves on the very roots of our solid Mambi traditions to form their social character and personality. Today we are an invincible nation and imperialism knows this very well. We are strong because we have said no to submission and to surrender, because we have cared for the unity of the people and of the party, for revolutionary ideology and for our boundless loyalty to the commander in chief of our revolution as for our most precious treasury. [applause]

We are also strong because we have been able to impart in our men, women and young people a feeling of justice and humanity, a feeling of international solidarity: proletarian internationalism.

There should be no limitations for man when the hopes of mankind are at stake. Those hopes are for a better future. For this reason, revolutionaries do not negotiate, do not hire and do not exchange solidarity as if it were a vulgar article and they do not haggle about it as if it were the forbidden fruit of narrow, sectarian and chauvinistic selfishness.

We are internationalists because we are revolutionaries. We learned that from Marti, Maceo, Gomez and Mella, from Che. We also learned it from the best pages of Latin American history: from Bolivar and San Martin. We learned it from the universal lessons of Marx, Engels and Lenin.

How many noble feelings we would have to discard, how much loyalty to the most just causes of society we would have to abandon were we to cease being internationalists! But no! This, as Fidel has said, is not possible. Man cannot be but what he is. Thousands of men and women on many occasions and in many places have stated their decision to fight alongside our people and to work alongside our workers. Thousands of men and women, especially from the socialist camp--and first of all from the Soviet Union--have offered and continue to offer to us invaluable aid that is not measured in dollars or in physical terms and that is beyond all formal dimensions.

Right now we are on the eve of the 11th Youth and Students World Festival. Some 17 years ago, a brigade made up of more than 1,000 men, driven by the most base and despicable interests and supported by U.S. air and naval forces and by the complicity of Latin American lackey regimes, left from several points in the Caribbean in a frustrated effort to put an end to the Cuban revolution.

The mercenary invasion was greeted the way they should be greeted: As soon as the invaders set foot on the sacred soil of the fatherland, earth caught fire under their heels from the bullets of our fighters. It was Dante's Hell for the invaders who came along as conquerors.

Some 17 years after that, as a symbolic answer to that historic event, thousands of young people from dozens of countries of various cultures, nationalities and ideologies this coming summer will go through jungles and deserts and over hills and continents and oceans to arrive at our coast in a great invasion of anti-imperialist solidarity and peace and friendship. [applause]

As soon as the members of this youth crusade set foot on the land that keeps alive the memory of so much heroism, they will receive from our buildings and fighting people heartfelt warmth and the deepest friendship. The 11th festival is part of the festivities of the Cuban people to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the glorious Moncada Barracks attack.

The most noble and progressive aspirations of the world youth will join with our joy in the achievements that have been made in these years of tireless efforts.

Today it was made public that Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam will visit our country in the near future. [applause] He is president of the National Military Administrative Committee and the Council of Ministers of Ethiopia. Cuba and Ethiopia are not accidental allies on the road to revolution. We are brothers in arms. Our cause is a united one and our enemy is the same. Our ideology is one and we share the same fighting philosophy.

African blood has been shed earlier in Cuba during the struggle of our people against slavery and colonialism. Now Cuban blood has been shed in Africa in combat against colonialism, neocolonialism and imperialism. [applause]

Anti-imperialist solidarity has been tempered in a popular crucible. This visit surely will greatly irritate the imperialists. Here, practically under their beards and without their being able to prevent it, the Ethiopian and Cuban revolutionary leaders will embrace, in a symbol of friendship and the indestructible identity of our peoples. The common anti-imperialist foxhole is strengthened with this visit. Our people are exuberantly preparing to offer the great leader of the heroic Ethiopian people all their friendship, brotherly, fighting and militant solidarity.

Comrades: We have participated in the central event that closes the commemoration of the Giron event, although in reality we are not concluding the constant tribute that from day to day we pay to the Giron martyrs. The work of the revolution does not stop and in that work is the best tribute to its best children. The martyrs need no credentials to enter history. Their example and their actions place them in the soul of the people and it is in the soul of the people where the true monument to their memories lies.

It is imperative to repeat today that profound poem of Jose Marti: When one dies in the arms of a grateful fatherland, death ends and imprisonment is broken and one finally gains, in death, true life.

Eternal glory to the martyrs of April 1961!

Long live the 17th anniversary of the Playa Giron victory and the proclamation of the socialist character of our revolution!

Long live our party!

Long live Comrade Fidel!

Fatherland or death. We shall win! [applause]

NONALINED CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION COORDINATION ENDS

FL200058Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Today the second meeting of the nonalined countries Intergovernmental Council on Information Coordination, which has been meeting since 17 April at the Havana Libre Hotel in this capital, has ended. At this last work session, a final declaration was issued on the principal aspects of the topics discussed at the meeting.

FIDEL CASTRO ATTENDS RECEPTION FOR NONALINED DELEGATES

FL191126Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the councils of state and ministers, last night attended a reception given in honor of the delegations that are attending the second meeting of the nonalined countries Intergovernmental Council for Coordination of Information. Fidel held extensive talks with the meeting's participants who were accompanied by councils of state and ministers Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, other members of the PCC Central Committee, and Cuban Radio and Television Institute President Nivaldo Herrera, who heads the Cuban delegation to the meeting.

Mustapha Masmoudi, chairman of the nonaligned countries Intergovernmental Council for Coordination of Information, also attended the reception in which the Mozambique delegation proposed that the opening speech by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez be adopted as an official document of the meeting because of the importance of its contents.

IRAQI MINISTER CONVEYS AL-BAKR GREETINGS TO CASTRO

JN191835Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Havana, 19 April--Qasim Hammudi, Iraqi information minister, has conveyed the greetings of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, to Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban councils of state and ministers. This came during a reception the Cuban leader hosted here last night on the occasion of the meeting of the council for the coordination of information of nonaligned countries.

Sa'd Qasim Hammudi praised the developing relations between Iraq and Cuba. He said that the policy of nonalinement adopted by the two countries unifies them in their common struggle against imperialism, racism, Zionism, and all forms of exploitation and aggression in the world.

Hammudi hailed Cuba's stand in support of the struggle being waged by the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights.

On his part, the Cuban president hailed the great achievements brought about by Iraq in various fields under the leadership of the Ba'th Party. He said: I have heard good news about Iraq from the Cuban comrades. He asked the information minister to convey his warm greetings to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council vice chairman.

IRAQI INFORMATION MINISTER MEETS WITH RODRIGUEZ

JN192029Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1958 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Havana, 19 April--Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi met in Havana this evening with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Cuban councils of state and ministers. Bilateral relations and the means to strengthen them were discussed at the meeting.

CASTRO MEETS WITH CHILEAN SOCIALIST PARTY DELEGATION

FL191209Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 19 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The first secretary of our party has met with the Chilean Socialist Party [PS] delegation that is visiting our country. The Chilean delegation is headed by PS Political Committee member Volodia Teitelboim. The international situation, particularly the situation in Chile, and the existing fraternal relations between the two parties were discussed during the meeting.

ALARCON NAMED DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER

FL191132Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon, who had been permanent representative to the United Nations for the past 12 years, returned to our country this past Monday to occupy the post of deputy foreign minister to which he was appointed by the government at the recommendation of the PCC Central Committee Politburo.

Ricardo Alarcon's farewell from his position at the United Nations served to demonstrate the prestige of the foreign policy of principles being developed by the Government of Cuba, which is gaining continued influence at that center of international life. The farewell also helped to show the quality of the work of Comrade Alarcon and to appreciate his firmness and intelligence at the service of the Cuban revolution.

New Cuban representative Raul Roa Kouri arrived in New York on Monday to replace Comrade Alarcon in his high responsibility at the United Nations.

RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ MEETS WITH POLAND'S PYKA

FL192131Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2104 GMT 19 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, PCC Politburo member and vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, has today received Tadeusz Pyka, deputy chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers. Pyka heads the delegation from his country at the seventh session of the Cuban-Polish Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, which began meeting in our capital since 13 April. Aspects of economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries and other subjects of mutual interest were discussed at the meeting.

FLAVIO BRAVO MEETS WITH ANGOLAN HEALTH MINISTER

FL192215Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2105 GMT 19 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Flavio Bravo, PCC Central Committee member and Council of Ministers vice president, today received Angolan Public Health Minister Domingos Coelho da Cruz in this capital. The Angolan official described the work done by his organization to provide better services to the people and gradually eliminate the results of so many years of colonialist exploitation in this field. Flavio Bravo assured Coelho da Cruz that the Cuban Government does not hold back in its effort to provide solidary aid that fraternal nation needs, a gesture that was appreciated by the minister.

Coelho da Cruz heads an Angolan Public Health Ministry delegation made up of provincial directors and officials from various offices, which has toured health installations and other places of interest in several provinces of the country.

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